

**WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Legislative Session**  
**June 13, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Cohn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:02 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

President Cohn announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss litigation.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, and President Cohn. Also present were Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager and Mike Witherel, Borough Solicitor. Mayor John Thompson and Ms. Ervin were absent. A quorum was established.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Art Hicks – 871 Princeton Blvd.** – Mr. Hicks commented that the sidewalk at 600 Princeton Blvd is covered with overgrowth and that if it were cleared, it may allow for additional parking spaces on street cleaning day. He commented on potholes at Hill Avenue and Princeton Blvd. and Princeton Blvd. and Franklin Avenue.

**Errol Nelson – 555 Princeton Blvd.** – Commented on suspected drug activity on Princeton Blvd.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Authorizing the advertisement of Ordinance No. 2894 – Police pension Plan.**

Ms. Marcinko provided an overview to Council and the amendments required for the pension plan document to conform to the provisions in the collective bargaining agreement per the Miller arbitration award as well as Act 600.

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Second by:** Ms. Goodman

**Borough of Wilkinsburg  
Council Legislative Meeting  
June 13, 2012**

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried**

**2. Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 5/2, 5/9, and 5/16.**

**Moved:** Ms. Trice

**Second by:** Ms. Evans

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried**

**3. Approving May Checks Issued in the amounts as follows:**

Regular Distributions 05/01/12 – 05/31/12	\$ 768,382.97
Payroll Disbursements	\$ 266,821.95
Voided Checks	<u>\$ ( 1,018.50)</u>
Total	\$1,034,186.42

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second by:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**Yes:** Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans,  
President Cohn

**No:** Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice

**Motion carried 6:2**

**4. Approving Resolution No. 12-048 – Setting pension contribution rate –  
Police Pension Plan.**

Ms. Marcinko explained that for years 2011 and 2012, the contribution rate was not established by resolution as had been the practice for prior years. The State pension auditor commented on this fact. Ms. Marcinko stated that Act 600 requires that changes to the contribution rate be established by resolution. As the rate has not changed in the past several years, it was understood that a resolution was not needed. Ms. Trice questioned if the rate is the same as the prior year and Ms. Marcinko responded that it is. Ms. Macklin questioned whether the current rate is sufficient to fund the plan and Ms. Marcinko advised that the plan is not 100% funded but close.

**Moved:** Mr. Lefebvre

**Second by:** Ms. Goodman

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried**

**5. Approving Resolution No. 112-049 – Fund balance assignments per  
GASB 54.**

**Moved:** Ms. Macklin

**Second by:** Mr. Lefebvre

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried**

**6. Approving Resolution No. 12-050 – Hiring seasonal workers.**

**Moved:** Ms. Goodman

**Second by:** Ms. McCarthy-Johnson

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Fraud Policy**

Ms. Marcinko provided an update on the process. Other communities were polled about their fraud policies. Ms. Marcinko explained the Borough's model is similar to Upper St. Clair's policy. Ms. Trice asked about policies in neighboring communities and inquired as to which communities were polled. Ms. Marcinko responded that policies were received from Upper St. Clair, Mt. Lebanon and Shaler Township. Zelienople and Ross Township were polled but did not have policies. None of the neighboring communities were polled. Ms. Macklin commented that she reviewed the other samples provided and liked Mt. Lebanon's policy as it was more specific and understandable. She suggested merging the Maher Duessel sample and Mt. Lebanon's. Ms. Goodman questioned whether it was necessary to merge the two policies and suggested adopting Mt. Lebanon's policy if that was acceptable to Council.

Ms. Goodman moved to adopt the policy provided by Mt. Lebanon with the changes suggested by Ms. Marcinko.

**All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried**

**2. Findley Drive Paving.**

President Cohn referred Council to the background information contained in the agenda packet. Ms. Macklin suggested that Council consider paving additional streets. She suggested that a review first be conducted to determine the level of debt service which could be afforded over the next ten years. Ms. Evans concurred.

A motion was made by Ms. Evans, second by Ms. Trice, to add Findley Drive to the street paving contract and to review other streets for paving following consideration of ability to pay through PIB funding.

**1. 800 Wood Street – Public Parking.**

President Cohn commented that discussion may be premature at this point and previous discussions had included parking and green space options. There are no monies available to move forward with the project now but he suggested Council begin thinking about its options. Ms. Evans commented that there appears to be sufficient parking available now. She stated that neighboring tenants have inquired about using the space for a community garden. She commented on the need for a comprehensive review and strategy for all vacant lots. Ms. Macklin concurred. President Cohn questioned whether there was a consensus of Council to pursue a vacant lot strategy. Ms. Marcinko commented that Delta Development as part of the EIP II is working on a sustainability component that will look at vacant lot management.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Exoneration of taxes – Peebles Square Project parcel. (Resolution No. 12-051).**

Mr. Witherel commented that there was an oversight with regard to this particular parcel when these properties were taken over and that the other taxing bodies have agreed to the exoneration. Ms. Evans commented that Action Housing and Hosanna House are continuing to discuss construction of additional houses. Ms. Marcinko stated that the effective date would be June 27, 2012 which would be following School Board action.

Ms. McCarthy-Johnson questioned the status of the piles of dirt at the Peebles Square site. President Cohn commented that the County is pushing to get them removed. Ms. Marcinko informed Council that some of the dirt will be used at demolition sites as fill. Ms. Evans informed Council that the original plans were for twelve homes with the possibility of a few more. There are currently 8 homes, new construction and 7 which have been restored.

Ms. Moore commented about the decline of the central part of Wilkinsburg and that she would like to see some progress in these areas. Ms. Evans requested clarification as to what type of progress. Ms. Moore responded by citing clean up, development, gardening projects and green space. She commented that a “Children at Play” sign is down at the corner of Maple and Bessica Streets and that there is a large pothole there as well. She stated that she will be attending the Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Macklin commented that the Planning Commission toured the area last month and discussed strategies—expanding the park, redevelopment and greening. Ms. Macklin commented that this area could be designated on the Official Map which may be a way to attract investment. Ms. Evans commented that there is very little money available to developers. She commented on her review of grant funding from 2006-2012 and that the largest share

**Borough of Wilkinsburg  
Council Legislative Meeting  
June 13, 2012**

of those monies has been spent in the first ward. She commented that there has not been a lack of Borough commitment and that Federal and State funding is scarce. She suggested that what is needed as a starting point is a community plan developed with stakeholders in the neighborhood. There may be start up funds available to put together a plan. There is a need for a longer term strategy in order to attract developers. Ms. Moore commented about garbage in front of a property on Swissvale Ave. and that properties are deteriorating with garbage and trash. President Cohn commented that Council has been discussing these matters and none of the issues are being discounted. He commented that the Borough cannot send Borough resources onto private property.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Trice, second by Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.

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Jason Cohn, Council President